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PRESIDENT OBIANG ESTABLISHES HEADQUARTERS OF AFRICAN CENTER FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

MALABO (July 7, 2010) – President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) signed an agreement with the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, Jean Ping, to establish the headquarters of the first African Center for Science, Technology and Innovation in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. According to President Obiang, this center will enable the African continent to find solutions to its many problems.

“We need to end the injustice, such as that concerning the [UNESCO] prize, because many Africans are dying of AIDS and children are dying from malaria,” said President Obiang during the signing ceremony. “We want to find ways to solve the problems affecting the continent, but we are noticing that some organizations and non-African states are strongly criticizing this prize. I do not know if it's because of my name or because they are unwilling to work with us as we strive to find solutions for our continent. It is clear that we must rise up and work out our own future. This center is something we have been dreaming of for a long time.”

Following the signing of the agreement, Chairman Jean Ping explained the importance of the establishment of the center and stated that it will showcase research and science in Africa. He further thanked President Obiang for supporting this initiative that will benefit all Africans.

The arrangements for the creation of the headquarters of the African Center for Science, Technology and Innovation have been underway for more than two years. President Obiang proposed this initiative to the African Union and offered to host the headquarters in Equatorial Guinea.

The African Center for Science, Technology and Innovation will serve as a place for African scientists to conduct research and find solutions to address health issues in Africa and contribute to the development of different economic sectors. Equatorial Guinea Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pastor Micha Ondo Bile and Minister of Education, Filiberto Ntutumu, as well as members of the African Union delegation were also present at the signing ceremony.

About Equatorial Guinea

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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